

*REMARKS*Rejections

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-4, 7-12, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Odinak (US 2003/0078722) in view of Sonnenrein (US 2006/0095174). Claims 5 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Odinak/Sonnenrein, and further in view of Treyz (US 6,711,474). Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Odinak/Sonnenrein, and further in view of Fernandez. Claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonnenrein (US 2006/0095174) in view of Fernandez.

Objections: Notice of Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 20 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim. However, the Action indicates that claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

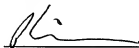
Amendments

In view of the Notice of Allowable Subject Matter, claim 20 has been cancelled. The subject matter of claim 20 has been incorporated in independent claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner, as well as in all other independent claims, namely claims 9, 17, and 18. In addition, claims 5 and 13 have been amended for consistency and claims 6 and 14 have been cancelled to avoid duplication.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that remaining claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-19 are in condition for allowance, which is requested. If a telephone conference is needed or would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Phillip M. Pippenger, Reg. No. 46,055
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6731
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: January 22, 2008